

Attorney Docket No. 03722/LH



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT  
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): M. YAMAKAWA, et al.

Serial No. : 10/731,703

Filed : December 8, 2003

For : PAPER POST-PROCESSING METHOD, PAPER  
POST-PROCESSING APPARATUS AND IMAGE  
RECORDING APPARATUS

Art Unit : 3722

Examiner : Not Yet Assigned

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
WITH STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(e)  
AND STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.704(d)**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

S I R :

Submitted herewith are the following:

- (1) Copy of a European Search Report dated March 24, 2004, issued in the counterpart European application;
- (2) Copies of the cited publications; and
- (3) Form PTO/SB/08A. It is requested that an initialed copy of the Form PTO/SB/08A be returned to indicate that the publications listed therein have been considered and made of record.

Said communication is in English, thereby satisfying the requirements for a concise explanation of relevance for any non-English language publications cited therein (MPEP 609 III A(3)).

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date noted below.

*N. Sahadeo*

Nalini P. Sahadeo

Dated: April 9, 2004

In the event that this Paper is late filed, and the necessary petition for extension of time is not filed concurrently herewith, please consider this as a Petition for the requisite extension of time, and to the extent not tendered by check attached hereto, authorization to charge the extension fee, or any other fee required in connection with this Paper, to Account No. 06-1378.

**STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(e) (1)**

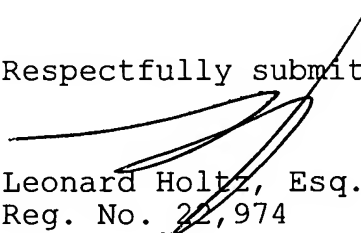
Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the present Information Disclosure Statement. Said Communication bears a mailing date of March 24, 2004. Therefore, the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is timely under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97(e) and does not require a fee.

**STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.704(d)**

Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in said communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and this communication was not received by any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of the present Information Disclosure Statement.

It is respectfully requested that the attached publications be considered and made of record.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Leonard Holtz, Esq.  
Reg. No. 22,974

Encls.

Dated: April 9, 2004

Frishauf, Holtz, Goodman & Chick, P.C.  
767 Third Avenue, 25th Floor  
New York, New York 10017-2023  
Tel. No. (212) 319-4900  
Fax. No. (212) 319-5101  
LH/nps

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PTO/SB/08A (08-00)

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|---|---|----------------------|------------------------|----------|
| Substitute for Form 1449A/PTO<br><br><b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br/>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> |   | Application Number   | 10/731,703             |          |
|   |   | Filing Date          | December 8, 2003       |          |
|   |   | First Named Inventor | M. YAMAKAWA et al.     |          |
|   |   | Group Art Unit       | 3722                   |          |
|   |   | Examiner Name        | Not Yet Assigned       |          |
| Sheet   | 1 | 1                    | Attorney Docket Number | 03722/LH |

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Exam. Inits* | Cite No <sup>1</sup> | Document Number | Kind Code <sup>2</sup> | Name of Patentee or Applicant | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Relevant Portion |
|--------------|----------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
|              | A                    | 2003/0040415    | A1                     | YAMAKAWA et al.               | 02-27-2003                  |                  |

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Exam Inits* | Cite No <sup>1</sup> | Offc <sup>3</sup> | Document Number <sup>4</sup> | Kind Code <sup>5</sup> | Name of Patentee or Applicant | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Relevant Portion | T <sup>6</sup> |
|-------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|----------------|
|             | B                    | EP                | 1 000 894                    | A2                     | KONICA CORP.                  | 05-17-2000                  |                  |                |

|                    |  |                 |  |
|--------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Examiner Signature |  | Date Considered |  |
|--------------------|--|-----------------|--|

\* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> See kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Place a check here if English translation is attached.

DATE MAILED: April 9, 2004